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## House of Representatives

The House is in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

## Senate

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1995

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, ultimate judge of our leadership of this Nation, shake us fully awake to the realization that we are accountable to You for what is happening in Government during our watch. We confess that the Senate has become a combat zone for a wretched war of words as we deal with the issues of a balanced budget. Negotiations with the administration have deadlocked in an internecine, no-win battle. We are talking at each other; we are not carefully listening to each other. We have lost sight of the time-honored purpose of debate: to lead to creative compromise and synergized solutions.

Once again, time has run out and progress is debilitated. Help us to give up gamesmanship and rise to greatness. Overcome the brinksmanship that has led us to the brink of another impasse. We confess our deep need for Your grace to capture our attitudes and for Your guidance to untangle the negotiations. Again, we ask You to help us put our trust in You and recapture our trust in each other. Give us courage to replace the party spirit for the spirit of patriotism. In our blessed Lord's name. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COVERDELL. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. Following morning business, the majority leader may resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2127, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

The Senate may also continue debate on the Department of Defense authorization conference report. And it is hoped that at some point today, the Senate will be able to set a time certain for a vote on the adoption of that conference report. Senators should therefore be aware that rollcall votes are still possible throughout today's session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Wyoming.

### BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I had hoped to be in Wyoming, as a matter of fact, this weekend, but I had hoped—sincerely hoped—that we would be working at solving the problems we have, and we do have some problems.

But I do want to comment a little. On the way in, I heard the President speak this morning. Frankly, I was surprised that his tone was that he had been offended, as a matter of fact. He indicated that the Republicans had shut down the Government. I have to tell you, I do not believe that is the case at all.

Although it does not matter who it is, the fact is he promised 25 days ago to bring a budget to be balanced in 7 years based on CBO numbers and has not done that, and that is the problem.

Mr. President, it is much more difficult to look into the future and seek to give the leadership that is necessary to mold the Government into a form that will be useful for generations to come. It is much easier to defend the status quo. It seems to me that is the real issue.

The real issue is the growing Government, the growing debt, the growing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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